



**State Rep. Keisha Waites  
(D-60)**

State Representative Keisha Waites brings a broad record of civic involvement, strong business acumen, and fresh ideas to the Georgia General Assembly.

Representative Waites was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives of the 60<sup>th</sup> district on February 6, 2012. Since taking office, Rep. Waites, has secured a community grant from the Home Depot Foundation, sponsored a regional Job Fair, and hosted numerous community clean ups. Rep. Waites has also secured in-kind sponsorships for the youth of district 60 to attend the following premium venues at no cost to the students, parents, or taxpayers: Georgia Aquarium, Zoo Atlanta, High Museum of Art, Browns Mill Golf Course and Fernbank Museum of Natural History.

Rep. Waites is a member of the Children and Youth Committee, Interstate Cooperation Committee, and Special Rules Committee.

Rep. Waites has dedicated much of her life to public service as a community advocate. Prior to her election, Rep. Waites served at the Small Business Administration (SBA) and formerly the Department of Homeland Security. She has gained hands on experience critical to addressing public safety and fiscal management which are major challenges for Georgia residents. Rep. Waites formerly served in the Legislative Affairs Division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Her primary duties entailed acting as a liaison to the United States Congress, engaging and communicating with Members of Congress and their staffs to build strong working relationships that will enhance the agency's legislative priorities and FEMA's ability to respond to the needs of disaster survivors.

Rep. Waites has over 10 years experience and knowledge of the legislative process at the local, state, and federal levels of government. She currently serves as a contract Governmental Affairs Officer with FEMA and previously supporting the 8 southeastern states, now the entire continental United States. Rep. Waites supported Members of Congress during the following domestic and international incidents: BP Oil Spill, Haiti Earthquake, Hurricane IKE and Hurricane Katrina. Rep. Waites has a proven background in solving problems.

Following college, Rep. Waites gained insider knowledge of mortgage lending laws and consumer finance while working for a major lending institution. Her greatest accomplishments include assisting hundreds of homeowners with the American dream of homeownership. At the US Small Business Administration, Rep. Waites facilitated loans to many small businesses to help them grow, create new jobs and nourish the economy. During her tenure with the SBA, Rep. Waites formed relationships and gained professional expertise that provided her with a superior understanding of the needs of small and large business owners, while balancing those needs with residential communities.

Rep. Waites has worked with homeowners, corporations, and non-profit organizations throughout Georgia and the United States who have suffered property damage in a presidential disaster. The SBA Disaster Assistance program makes low-interest, long-term disaster loans to applicants affected by natural disasters: floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, wildfires recover and rebuild their lives.

Active in many local community and civic based organizations, Rep. Waites has served on the following boards: Atlanta Commission on Women and National Women's Political Caucus-Atlanta Chapter. She is a graduate of the Atlanta Planning and Advisory Board Leadership Institute and member of the National Organization of Women. This unique experience has allowed Rep. Waites to make an immediate and significant impact for small business owners and Georgia families.

### **Proven Leadership**

- Rep. Waites worked with small business owners and corporations facilitating SBA loans to help them grow create new jobs and nourish the economy.
- Rep. Waites gained insider knowledge of mortgage lending laws and consumer finance while working for a major lending institution.
- Assisted hundreds of homeowners with the American dream of homeownership.
- Utilized her business acumen to build bi-partisan partnerships on regional and federal levels of government.
- Hurricane Katrina Long-Term Recovery Team – (Member). Rep. Waites was directly involved issues with including economic development, transportation, and public safety.

### **Political/Civic Engagement**

- Atlanta Leadership Institute, Alumni
- Atlanta Planning and Advisory Board, previous member
- National Women's Political Caucus NWPC – Atlanta Chapter, Board member
- White House Project Alumni
- Police Benevolent Association - Endorsed
- Sierra Club - Endorsed
- Atlanta Commission on Women, Board member
- National Organization of Women- NOW, member

## **Professional Experience**

- Georgia House of Representatives District 44, Chief of Staff/Legislative Director
- U.S. Small Business Administration, Commercial Loan Division
- U. S. Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, Congressional Affairs Liaison
- City of Atlanta, Department of Revenue